

the Secretary of Defense. She was subsequently assigned to be Assistant Special Agent in Charge for Criminal Investigations at the NCIS Southeast Field Office, located aboard Naval Station Mayport. She concluded her NCIS career back in DC in the Navy's Acquisition Integrity Office.

Mr. President, during the course of her Federal service, Special Agent Kirk has made many sacrifices. As noted above, she moved frequently to meet the needs of her agency, the Department of the Navy, and our Nation. She spent extended periods geographically separated from her husband, who was also an NCIS special agent, as each of them strived to meet their own mission demands. She and her husband, retired NCIS special agent Guy Kirk, have bought a home on the side of a mountain in Brevard, NC, where they plan to take some time together to hike and explore the area. She has also set up a stained glass studio and plans to pursue the artistic side of life. I know all of my colleagues join me in thanking Special Agent Kirk for her many years of dedicated service, and in wishing her "fair winds and following seas" as she and her husband Guy embark on the next chapter of their lives together.●

RECOGNIZING CAMPBELL-TIMMERMAN LEGION AUXILIARY

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize the Campbell-Timmerman Legion Auxiliary, unit No. 115, of Platte, SD.

Each year the auxiliary participates in the Paralyzed Veterans of America pheasant hunt sponsored by the American Legion. The auxiliary provides food and accommodations for many of the veterans who come to hunt. Through their efforts, the auxiliary gives these veterans the opportunity to enjoy the fellowship of other veterans and appreciate the great outdoors.

Organizations like the Campbell-Timmerman Legion Auxiliary are the backbone of South Dakota's rural communities. It is my hope that their dedication to serving our State's veterans inspires others to lend a helping hand.

I would like to thank the Campbell-Timmerman Legion Auxiliary unit No. 115 for their service and wish them continued success in the years to come.●

HONORING STEVE BRIMM

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I honor Steve Brimm of Spearfish, SD, for his nearly 40 years of service to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Mr. Brimm is retiring from his position as project leader to the D.C. Booth Fish Hatchery where he has served for the past 10 years.

The D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery is one of the oldest operating hatcheries in the country dedicated to fish culture and resource management. Under Steve Brimm's leadership, the fish hatchery has continued to thrive and benefit not only the

Spearfish community but the entire Black Hills region. By forging partnerships and nurturing cooperation within the fish hatchery system, Steve has given the D.C. Booth Fish Hatchery a chance to become one of the most well-preserved fish hatcheries in the United States. The hatchery has become an archival site for the Fish and Wildlife Service's fishery materials, and a functioning fish rearing facility, as well as being a tourist and economic attraction for the city of Spearfish.

For his dedicated service, Steve has been honored on both a State and national level. He was named a 2007 Take Pride in America National Award winner by the United States Department of the Interior and the Hatchery Helpers Youth Volunteer Program that Mr. Booth helped to develop was awarded a 2003 Take Pride in America National Award.

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate Steve Brimm on this special occasion and thank him for all his years of service to the D.C. Booth Fish Hatchery, the city of Spearfish, and the State of South Dakota.●

SOUTH DAKOTA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to a key institution in my State, the South Dakota Community Foundation, SDCF, which will celebrate its 20th anniversary on November 11, 2007. This statewide organization is a perfect example of how private funds are raised in communities to ensure future sustainability. The SDCF is a model for those who believe there is no better way to improve themselves and our great State than through working together to accomplish great things.

The SDCF was started two decades ago by a group of leaders with a vision for South Dakota. Their vision included capitalizing on the philanthropic nature of South Dakotans to help rural communities redevelop and serve the needs of their citizens. Strong leadership over 20 years has resulted in thousands of investors and partners that have assisted local communities and nonprofit organizations to achieve new levels of success. The original group of investors was especially critical, as they embraced a concept that has now exceeded the expectations of many. Over 70 communities and hundreds of nonprofit organizations across South Dakota now have direct partnerships with the SDCF.

Twenty years ago, under the direct leadership of our late Governor George S. Mickelson, the SDCF was created. I wish that Governor Mickelson were alive today to witness the lasting legacy his initiatives have given to our State. The SDCF continues to meet the visionary goals of Governor Mickelson, and remains committed to taking the organization to levels unanticipated 20 years ago. Governor Mickelson's

widow, Linda Mickelson Graham, served in a leadership role on the SDCF board of directors for nine years, and their oldest son, Mark Mickelson, is set to become chairman of the board in 2009. Governor Mickelson's dream is alive and well within the SDCF and across South Dakota.

The original funding for the SDCF came from generous gifts from the McKnight Foundation and the 3M Foundation. On their way to raising the first \$10 million, the 3M Foundation and the State of South Dakota contributed \$2 million each, and the McKnight Foundation added \$3 million as a challenge grant. Using this seed money as an incentive, Governor Mickelson and then-SDCF Executive Director Bernie Christenson raised an additional \$3 million within 1 year to fully fund the first phase of the SDCF.

Today, the SDCF has grown to over \$70 million in total assets. Over 360 funds have been established by communities, families, nonprofit organizations, and businesses to benefit South Dakota in perpetuity. These funds provide support for nonprofit causes benefiting children, senior citizens, and individuals with special needs. South Dakotans from rural areas, Indian reservations, and our largest cities are reaping the benefits of this visionary plan.

Leadership has been a key component to the success of the SDCF. The original leadership to get the SDCF started, the continued leadership of the board members, and dedicated staff have all played an integral role. Current Chairman of the Board John E. Johnson, President Bob Sutton, and the current board leadership have set goals for the continued growth of the organization. This growth would not be possible without committed staff members, and two of them—Stephanie Judson and Ginger Niemann—have 20 years of combined service to the SDCF. The relationships they have built with donors and partners of the SDCF over the years are invaluable, and they deserve credit for a job very well done.

The future for the SDCF is bright. Over the next 5 years, the organization will grow to over \$100 million in permanently endowed assets. This will result in \$5 million annually being distributed to nonprofit and charitable causes in South Dakota. This commitment to human service, economic development, and cultural and educational organizations in South Dakota will leave a lasting legacy.

The success of the SDCF has come from many areas, including unmatched public/private partnerships, strong nonprofit organizations, local community leaders, generous contributors, and prudent fiscal management. On the local level, a new generation of leaders has been developed, with many communities finding the future resting in the hands of these individuals. Through the establishment of permanent endowment funds, these local leaders are able to envision what their communities